

## Friday, November 2, 2012 – Who Speaks for the Child?

Anyone who has been paying attention to the Presidential election realizes there are two dramatically different viewpoints when it comes to the subject of abortion. Consider the following verbiage taken from each party's platform:

**The Democratic Party** believes that women have a right to control their reproductive choices. The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports Roe v. Wade and a woman's right to make decisions regarding her pregnancy, including a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay. We oppose any and all efforts to weaken or undermine that right. Abortion is an intensely personal decision between a woman, her family, her doctor, and her clergy; there is no place for politicians or government to get in the way.

**The Republican Party** states that "the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed." It opposes using public revenues to promote or perform abortion or to fund organizations that perform or advocate abortions. It says the party will not fund or subsidize health care that includes abortion coverage.

Stark contrasts on this position between the parties; one of the positions, of the Democratic Party, cannot be accepted by Christians. It clearly goes against the teachings of God. However, there are those who try to make the position taken by the Republican Party as conditional. They bring up situations of rape, incest, life of the mother and try to justify acceptable conditions where abortion can be justified. Make no mistake; abortion is NEVER justified in the sight of God.

Since Roe versus Wade was unconstitutionally made law (1973) in the United States, **55 MILLION** children have been murdered in this country by abortions. Evil people have manipulated the law to make this great crime legal. We could bring this blood bath to a halt in a few months if all the good people who oppose abortion would join hands in demanding its end. All human life is made in God's image (Gen. 1:27). God hates hands that shed innocent blood (Prov. 6:16-17). Surely it is right for us to oppose this grizzly work of darkness (Eph. 5:11-12) and to demand that law-makers deal with it. What is lacking to make this happen? Strong moral leadership. If the millions of God-fearing, Bible-believing Americans would speak with a clear and certain voice at election time, much of the corruption found in our political system would be rooted out and others would tremble with fear. Remember that "righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34). Righteous people do not need laws or law enforcers to make them do good and abstain from evil. But there is a type of citizen that will be civil, social and lawful only if the law insists that he do so (1 Tim. 1:9).

There are those who state that the act of abortion does not constitute taking of a human life. If that is the case, can anyone tell me what is growing in the womb? At the moment of conception, the Lord God, working through nature, begins the process of shaping, forming, and making the body of a human being, even as a potter would shape and mold a piece of clay.

## **When Does Life Begin in a Human Being?**

Genesis 2:7. "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

Job 33:4. "The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life."

Psalms 51:5. "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me."

Some would say that God imparts the human soul, which marks the beginning of life, at the very moment a baby breathes its first breath. They cite such passages as Genesis 2:7 where it says that when God breathed into Adam the breath of life, he became a living being. I certainly wouldn't dispute the fact that right after God breathed a human soul into Adam that he began to live. However, God's creation of Adam was quite different from that of His creation of human babies. God made Adam in one day, forming for him a mature, adult body out of the lifeless dust of the earth and then breathing into him the breath of life. The Lord forms and makes babies however, out of living cells over a period of nine months.

## **Both Unborn Babies and Born Babies are Living Beings**

Luke 1:41. "And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe (brephos) leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit."

Luke 18:15. "Then they also brought infants (brephos) to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them."

The Holy Scripture makes no distinction between unborn babies and born babies. It does not speak of a fetus as being an inanimate mass of tissue. Rather it speaks of a fetus as a living baby, even as it does of a born baby. In both Luke 1:41 and Luke 18:15 the same Greek word (brephos - brephos) is used for both the unborn baby of Elizabeth and the little babies that were brought to Jesus for Him to bless. Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon gives the following meaning for brephos (brephos): an unborn child, embryo, fetus; a new-born child, an infant, a babe. Thus brephos (brephos) is used interchangeably for both prenatal and postnatal babies.

## **The Termination of Man's Life Rests Alone with God**

1 Samuel 2:6. "The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up."

Psalms 31:15. "My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, And from those who persecute me."

Job 14:5. "Since his days are determined, The number of his months is with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass."

Acts 17:25-26. "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings."

The Lord God, who gives to all life and breath, possesses the ultimate authority of determining how long an individual is to live here on earth as well as when to end that life. Only in cases where the government is acting as a representative of God - such as in carrying out capital punishment and in engaging in war - does man possess the right to take the life of another human being (Genesis 9:6; Romans 13:1-4).

### **God Prohibits Murder**

Exodus 20:13. "You shall not murder."

Genesis 9:6. "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man."

Exodus 21:22-23. "If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life."

What of those cases where the life of the mother is at risk? If I was dying from a heart condition, would it be ethical for me to murder one of my children so that I might have their heart to save my life? No one would agree with that premise but the question I ask of you is this: is there any difference in the two situations? Of course not. There is much assumption made that the mother would die but there is no certainty.

One thing you might want to remember; the power of prayer. James 5:16 tells us that the right kind of prayer coming from the right kind of person makes for a powerful combination...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. At times God says "yes" when we pray, at times God says "no" when we pray. As Christians, we know that we need to leave it in His hands.